

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 6-18, and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103, and claims 5, 19-26, and 33 are objected to. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 15, and 20-27 are amended, and claims 2, 5, 16, 19, and 33 are canceled. No new matter is added. The rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap, JR. (US 2005/0098620), claim 4 was rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap, JR. in view of Jusas et al. (US 2005/0029350), claims 6, 10, and 11 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap, JR. in view of Kimura et al. (US 5,229,587) and Hohberger et al. (US 2003/0227528), claims 27 and 29 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap, JR. in view of Hohberger, claims 28, 31, and 32 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap, JR./Hohberger et al. in view of Kimura et al., and claims 30 is rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunlap, JR./Hohberger et al. in view of Jusas et al.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of claims 2 and 5. Claim 5, which depends on claims 2 and 1, has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 2 and 5 are canceled.

Claims 3, 4, and 8-11 depend on claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 6, 7, and 12, which originally depended on canceled claim 2, have been amended to depend on claim 1. Thus, claims 6, 7, and 12 are also now allowable.

Claims 13 and 14 depend on claim 12 and ultimately on claim 1. Thus, claims 13 and 14 are also allowable.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 19. Claim 19, which depends on claim 15, has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Thus, claim 15 is now allowable.

Claims 16 and 19 are canceled.

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Claims 17 and 18 depend on claim 15 and are thus also allowable.

Claims 20-26, which originally depended on canceled claim 19, have been amended to depend on independent claim 15. Thus, claims 20-26 are now also allowable.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 33. Claim 33, which depends on claim 27, has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Thus, claim 27 is now allowable.

Claims 28-32 depend on claim 27. Therefore, claims 28-32 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 27.

Claim 33 is canceled.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Objected to Claims

Claims 5, 19-26 and 33 were objected as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The allowable subject matter recited in claims 5, 19, and 33 have been incorporated, along with any intervening claims, into independent claims 1, 15, and 27, respectively.

Claims 20-26 have been amended to depend on allowable independent claim 15.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe pending claims 1, 3, 4, 6-15, 17, 18, and 20-32 are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

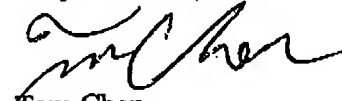
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October 11, 2005
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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